

2020 Urban Scholars (Wake Med Location)

Richard Beckett - Ansa was born in Maryland but considers many places home since he was raised in many different parts of the United States, Canada, and Ghana. He studied biomedical engineering at Duke University and proceeded to get a masters in Biotechnology before taking a year off to work at a mechanic shop and start his budding medical school career. He is currently interested emergency medicine and primary Sports medicine. He hopes that the Kenan urban scholars program can connect him with the underserved population that he spent most of his time working with during his college days!

Micayla Jones was born and raised in Charlotte, NC. As an undergraduate at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with minors in American Sign Language/Deaf Studies and Chemistry. Before medical school, she worked as a Clinical Psychology Research Lab Manager and a neurology Medical Scribe. These experiences led to her desire for learning about the wonders of the human brain and the unique clinical manifestations of the nervous system! She has participated in many interdisciplinary service clinics and mission trips and is passionate about providing for underserved urban communities in an interdisciplinary fashion as a Neurologist or Psychiatrist. As a Kenan Urban Scholar, Micayla is excited to spend her clinical years in Raleigh, NC learning how to best serve urban populations as a future physician and community advocate. In her spare time, she enjoys completing "Do-It-Yourself" projects and cooking new recipes.

Sophia McFarlane was born in Toronto, Ontario and grew up outside of Charlotte, North Carolina. She is a proud afro-caribbean, with the majority of her family residing in Jamaica and Trinidad. She graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2019 with a degree in Chemistry with minors Social & Economic Justice and Health & Society. As a Morehead-Cain scholar, Sophia spent her summers of undergrad working with community health in Nicaragua, performing public health research at Johns Hopkins and interning at a digital women's clinic in New York. These opportunities as well as her experiences of observing the health obstacles her family endured both domestically and internationally, fostered her desire to pursue medicine as a form of social justice. She enjoys cooking new recipes, working out and occasionally binge watching reality TV-shows. Sophia believes that as a physician she must also serve as an activist for her community and other marginalized groups. She is excited to serve an urban population through the lens of social justice and an emphasis on primary care.

Aaron Morris was born in Memphis, TN and spent time in Cleveland, OH before moving to Charlotte, NC. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA where he majored in Biology and had a concentration in public health. During his undergraduate education, he engaged with the surrounding community via volunteering in Atlanta Public Schools and at surrounding community gardens. Through these interactions and many more, he developed a sense of how socioeconomic factors affect health and wellness. Aaron aspires to be a physician that invests in and protects urban underserved communities. He spends his free time listening to music, reading books, learning to paint, and playing basketball.

Megan Pugh was born and raised in Asheville, NC surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she focused her undergraduate education on studying health disparities in the Latinx populations and sociocultural approaches to understanding health. After graduating she was selected to be a MedServe scholar, a program designed to promote primary care physicians in medically underserved communities throughout North Carolina. During her two-year fellowship she worked with the urban underserved population of Charlotte, NC at a low-cost primary care clinic. Working in Charlotte as a Spanish interpreter, medical assistant, and community health worker, sparked her own interest in primary care and women's health. Megan is excited to work within an urban community and leverage her privilege to advocate for communities of color. She is particularly interested in working alongside Latinx women on issues surrounding reproductive justice and access to care. When not talking over coffee with friends, Megan can be found reading, cooking, or walking her new German Shepard rescue dog with her partner.

Aalia Shariff grew up in Charlotte, NC and still loves to visit her family there. She attended college at NC State University, where she studied Biochemistry, Human Biology, and Spanish and did cancer research. As a Goodnight Scholar, she was a STEM education advocate for underserved students from the elementary to college levels. Her personal experience in Charlotte and medical volunteer experience in Raleigh showed her some of the unique barriers to quality healthcare in urban communities. In her future career as a physician, she wants to work with diverse patient populations, including Spanish-speaking and refugee groups, who often face significant health disparities. In her free time, Aalia enjoys traveling, reading, and baking especially for her friends and family.